(iii) The compensation to the workers suffering from various occupational diseases is regulated under the Workmen's Compensation Act by the labour departments of States. Occupational cancer is a notifiable disease for which workers are entitled to get compensation.

वन क्षेत्रों में खनन पट्टे का नवीकरण

1600. **श्री शिवचरण सिंह:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश भर में वन क्षेत्रों में खनन पट्टे का नवीकरण किये जाने के बारे में कितने मामले इस समय सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान के वन क्षेत्रों में खनन पट्टे के नवीकरण से संबंधित बहुत सारे मामले सरकार के विचाराधीन हैं और उनकी कुल संख्या कितनी है और उसमें विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि पट्टे का नवीकरण या समय में छूट दिये जाने का मामला वन संरक्षण अधिनियम के अंतर्गत आता है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो छूट प्रदान किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं और यदि नहीं, तो कानूनों का उल्लंघन करने के जिम्मेदार व्यक्तियों के नाम क्या हैं;

(ङ) क्या यह सच है कि वन संरक्षण अधिनियम का उल्लंघन किये जाने के बारे में कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं; और

(च) क्या यह सच है कि राजस्थान सरकार ने अवैध खनन की अनुमति दी है, यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) 30.11.1993 को केन्द्र सरकार के पास वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत खनन पट्टों से संबंधित 30 प्रस्ताव लम्बित थे।

(ख) 30.11.1993 को अलवर जिले के सरिस्का बाघ रिजर्व में संगमरमर की 208 खानों के लिए 502.77 है॰ वन भूमि को उपयोग में लाने के बारे में केवल एक प्रस्ताव वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत केन्द्र सरकार के पास लम्बित है।

(ग) जी, हां।

(घ) वन (संरक्षण) अधिनियम, 1980 के तहत पूर्व स्वीकृति प्राप्त किए बिना वन क्षेत्र में खनन पट्टों के नवीनीकरण के लिए कोई छूट नहीं दी गई है। अधिनियम का उल्लंघन करने के लिए उत्तरदायी व्यक्तियों के नामों के बारे में सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ङ) जी, हां।

(च) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Eco-System in Western Ghats

1601. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the extent of damage and threat of extinction facing the eco-system of Western Ghats;

(b) whether Government have received any threat to this effect; and

(c) what steps have been/are proposed to be taken to replenish the greenery of Western Ghats?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government is fully aware of the serious problems of degradation of the eco-system in the Western Ghats. Though quantitative estimation of natural resource degradation is not possible at this time, it is accepted that heavy anthropogenic pressure and exploitative patterns of development in the past have led to depletion of capital stock of natural resources on which all economic development must ultimately depend. The major problems include depletion of forests, destruction of habitat of unique plant and animal species, shortage of fuel and fodder for the rural areas, soil erosion, and loss of soil fertility, floods etc.

(c) In order to arrest the damage to the Western Ghats eco-system, the Government initiated a separate Western Ghat Development Programme (WGDP) in 1974-75 as part of Hill Area Development Programme. The WGDP is funded by Special Central Assistance made available to the concerned State

Governments. An amount of Rs. 42.05 crores has been provided for the current year. The general approach of the programme is based on watershed development keeping in view the basic needs of the people as well as development based on ecological principles.

To complement the developmental efforts, an Action-oriented Research Programme is being supported since 1983 to find scientific solutions to the complex environment problems of immediate concern. A Centre for Ecological Sciences has also been established at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

For conservation of biodiversity, a major initiative has been taken up by setting up the Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve.

In order to prevent diversion of forest lands for non-forestry purposes, prior approval under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980 has to be obtained from the Central Government. While taking decisions on such proposals, their likely environmental and ecological impacts are carefully considered. Whenever forest land is approved for diversion, compensatory afforestation for equivalent non-forest land/degraded forest area is stipulated at the project cost.

To augment the efforts for afforestation and eco-development, an Indo-UK project was started in 1992 at a cost of Rs. 84 crores for a period of 6 years. The project will cover about 42,000 ha. of Uttar Kanara circle and 19,200 ha. of planting in another circle in a period of 6 years. Apart from these efforts, several non-governmental organisations are involved in various afforestation, eco-development and environment awareness activities in this region.

Creation of Pollution Free Cities

1602. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are embarking on a programme to create pollution free cities;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether any cities have been selected in Andhra Pradesh for close monitoring and implementation of pollution free environment; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Government has not embarked specific on any programme to create pollution free cities. However, a number of programmes and measures for control of pollution are under implementation with an objective to minimise pollution in cities. These include monitoring of air and water quality, laying down of standards and their enforcement. The details are given below:

(i) Effluent and emission standards have been prescribed under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986;

(ii) Environmental guidelines have been evolved for siting and operation of industries;

(iii) Industries have been asked to comply with consent requirements of the State Pollution Control Boards;

(iv) Industries have been directed to instal necessary pollution control equipment on a time-bound basis and legal action is taken against the defaulting units;

(v) 17 categories of heavily polluting industries have been identified and these industries have been asked by the State Governments to comply with the effluent